

## THE

## REHEARSAL.

1. Mr. Review his Story of Taunton brought in.
2. His Luck at Stories.
3. His Arguings from a Particular to a General.
4. He Pursues that of the Play-House.
5. Easy to make Reprizals.
6. If the Story of Taunton were True, yet the Review still more Guilty.
7. Four Mistakes in his Story of Taunton.
8. His Reflections upon the Clergy and Church-Men there are False and Scandalous.

SATURDAY, July 6th 1706.

(1.) Country-man. **Y**OU have not in your Last, Master, Answer'd the most Material Argument which the Review of the 18th last June, Vol. 3. N. 73. brings to support his Likelies, who are most Likely to be Enemies to the Duke of Marlborough and the Government. And that is a long Story he tells (which takes almost his whole Review) of an Election for Church-Wardens at Taunton, and about Ringing their Bells, on the News of our late Victories.

(2.) Rehearsal. I lay little stress upon his Stories, he has had such ill Luck with them ! Especially since his Weather-Cock ! Not for his being Misinform'd, (for that may befall any Man, tho' he ought to take Care before he puts it in Print) but for his standing it out so Obstinate, after full Conviction, and Repeating it, over and over again, for about Half a Year together, when he had Nothing to say to support it ; till I was forc'd at last Perfectly to Hew him down into Silence, but Cou'd never bring him to a Confession or Owning of his Faute to this Day ! After this, what shou'd I do to Couse his Stories ?

(3.) And for another Reason. His Method is, from Particular Accusations, to Infer a General Conclusion. Thus he Picks up Stories of Particular Clergy Men, whether True or False ; And thence draws his Inference, and passes Sentence upon the whole Order, as the Dead-Weight against the Settlement of the Nation, and therefore fit to be Remov'd ! One Third of them to be Hanged ; and Parts of the Remaining 5 to be Treated as Enemies to the Government ! He makes them a Proverbial Jeft, and the most Abominable Wicked Crew that God ever Suffer'd to go un-Punish'd, since the Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah ! All this I have Prov'd from his own Words, so Plainly and Demonstrably, that he can make no Reply, more than to the Weather-Cock ! Yet, as in that Case, this stops not his Mouth, but he will still go on in his Persecuting the Clergy. He cannot Help it ! Whether from his own Inclinations, or this Shamefull Drudgery being put upon him by those who Employ him, I will not Examine.

But still the Cry against the Clergy must be kept up ! In this very Review, N. 73. p. 290. he is at it again, and notwithstanding of his having made no Reply, or Offer'd to Defend himself against these Charges made Good against him in the Rehearsal, he still Repeats his Accusation, and will not be Silence'd, but says, No, No, Mr. REHEARSAL, there is in plain English an Unhappy Defection in the Inferior CLERGY, and too many are Debauch'd with HIGH-CHURCH and FRENCH Principles, which I take to be the same thing. Here is Destruction to them again ! High-Church is French ! And by High-Church (as I have before fully Prov'd, and he can make no Reply) the Body of the Clergy in General is meant ! All are French ! then Down with them !

And (as I said) all this Built upon some poor Story, not worth Examining, of this or that, Particular Person ; And as True, I suppose, as his Weather-Cock ! For as many of them as have been Examined have Prov'd so.

(4.) Thus his Story of the Play-House Contributing to the Repair of a Chappel, which he may fix, perhaps, upon some one untwary Church-Warden, is Improv'd by him to a violent Satyr against the whole Church, as I have shew'd in my two Last, upon his Num. 74. of the 20th. of June last. Yet he thought one whole Review spent upon this Subject not Enough, but gives us the Second Part to the same Tune, in his of the 25th, last June, N. 76. which is all Employ'd upon this Subject, and Begins thus, Upon the PLAY-HOUSE coming in by way of Collection for the Use of the CHURCH. And calls it, A Confederacy with HELL, to support her Dying HIGH-CHURCH Cause ; He names High-Church, but means the Whole Church, as I have fully shew'd upon his Num. 74. in mine Num. 117.

Now after this, what wou'd you have me Chase any more of his Stories for ? Which if True, signify nothing to Place a General Charge upon ; only to Shew the Inverterat Malice of these Men, who can get no better Handle against the Church.

(5.) And if this Method were either Christian, or Becoming a Gentleman, or any Proof against a whole Body of Men, he knows I cou'd make

make full Reprizals upon him from both former and latter Examples, and more Publick and Notorious, even in the Streets, than any he can Charge upon the Church. But I leave such Arguments to them who have no Better to make use of.

(6.) What wou'd it Signify, if he shou'd shew a Rash or Undefect Action done by Somebody at Taunton? Wou'd this Determine who are most Likely to be Enemies to the Duke of Marlborough and the Government? Which is the Point for which he brings it as a Proof! Wou'd this be such a Proof, as a Couple of Weekly Writers Employ'd or Encourag'd to Libel the D. of Marlborough and the Government? And who have Continu'd in this Employment these several Years. As I have, from the Beginning of these Rehearsals, abundantly shewn. Is not this a fuller Proof of the Design of a Party, than what any 2 or 3 Men at Taunton shou'd Accidentally do or say about the Ringing of their Bells, or Choosing Church-Wardens? Did any of them say, that the D. of Marlborough was Allegorical in what he wrote to the Secretary of State? That is, did not Mean what he Said. Or that he was a Fool, if he thought of Conquering France? That he was Fighting against Divine Right? And that the Queen had no Divine Right? Did any of the Men at Taunton talk at this Rate? Yet all this the Review which Accuses them has said, and Maintains it, as I shew'd in my Last.

(7.) Country-m. Then, Master, you let the Story of Taunton go for Truth, as he tells it.

Rehears. No, Country-Man. Because he tells it, therefore I Suspect it. According to the Rule I formerly gave you of Believing Stories they tell for Furthering of their Cause. And because it was of no Consequence, if True, therefore I Inquir'd nothing about it.

Country-m. But it will be of some Consequence, if any thing of this Story so formally told, shou'd prove otherwise. It will be a Confirmation, Master, of that Rule you Gave me. And which I have not found to Fail hitherto.

Now here is a Letter I was desir'd to shew you. I suppose it comes from Taunton. And bears Date June 22. 1706. The Name I conceal, unles there be Occasion for it. But I know the Person to whom it was wrote. And it Contradicts almost the Whole of what the Review says upon this Matter. Let me Name a few Particulars.

1. The Review says, p. 290. That it is not the Usage and Custom at Taunton for the Minister of the Parish to have the Naming of One of the Church-Wardens, as is usual in other Places. On the Contrary the Letter says, it is allow'd to the Minister at Taunton, and has been Exercis'd by several Ministers, without any Opposition, except from the Dissenters.

2. The Review says, The Office (of Church-Warden) has been diligently Engross'd by the PARTY (as he Lovingly calls the Church!) for several Years past. The Letter says, That for above twenty Years past, the DISSENTERS have star'd in this Office with the CHURCH-MEN, they having had frequently one and sometimes two Church-Wardens at a time.

3: The Review says, That when Church-Men were Church Wardens, several Irregularities had been Committed, Unnecessary Charges brought upon the Parish, Accounts clandestinely past, the Parish Church Damnify'd, and almost thrown down— And that it put the Town to 600 pounds Charge to Build it up again. The Letter says, That it Appears by the Parish-Book that the Accounts have Regularly pass'd, after Publick Notice given in the Church for the Parishioners to Attend, except for the Years 1699. when Mr. B-r and Mr. Gr-y Eminent DISSENTERS were Church-Wardens, the former not having pass'd his Accounts till about two Years ago, and the Latter never, he Dying greatly in Debt to the Parish. That the Church hath been kept in very good Repair, without any Un-usual Charge, except in the Year 1698, when by the Negligence or Unskillfulness of some workmen digging a Pit to fix a Post in for the New Pulpit, two Pillars fell down, with the Arches and Windows they supported; and yet the Charge of Re-building this, and Erecting the New Pulpit too, fell much short of 600 pounds, which the Review says it Cost the Parish, the whole Disbursements that Year amounting but to 457 l. 19 s. 1 d.  $\frac{1}{2}$  which the Parishioners contentedly paid, except some DISSENTERS, who don't use to be Pleas'd with the Adorning and Beautifying of Churches.

4. The Review says, That an Action was brought against the Minister Mr. Gale, I suppose for Presuming to Name a Church-Warden. The Letter says, There was no Action brought against the MINISTER, neither is his Right of Election disallow'd, but Allow'd the very last Election, when the Person he Nominated was Admitted and Sworn.

Rehears. Mr. Review wou'd do well to tell us, whether in the Sentence of the Court in Westminster-Hall for the Complainants in this Action, the Right of the Minister to Choose one of the Church-Wardens was Deny'd. For there may be many Points in an Action of this Nature. And I know nothing of these Proceedings in Westminster-Hall. Was Mr. Gale present at the Election of these Church-Wardens? And did he Then Name his Church-Warden? And was this Rejected in Westminster Hall, upon the Custom of Taunton?

(8.) Country-m. We shall nor have Time to go through the Rest of Mr. Review's Accusations to night. I must Reserve that for the next Opportunity. I will only say this now, That the Letter says his Aspersing of the Clergy and Church-Men at Taunton is most False and Scandalous, the Persons Reflected upon being of Known Reputation and Esteem in their Country. But this shews his Bitter Malice against the Church and Church-Men.

But we shall have more Sport, when we Come to his Objection of the Ringing of the Bells and the Bonfires.

#### ADVERTISMENT.

S T. Paul no-mover of Sedition, or a Brief Vindication of that Apostle, from the False and Disingenous Exposition of Mr. Hoadly, in a Sermon preach'd before the Lord Mayor on Rom. xiii. v. 1.

A Collection of Papers, concerning what hath been Translated in the Convocation, summon'd A.D. 1702 and dilolv'd 1705.